



RESIDENTIAL SECURITY TIPS

When you are choosing a residence, look for features that provide better security. There are some things you can do to improve security in any home. Things to look for or add:

Look for an area with the following characteristics:

- Low crime rate – Check with local authorities.
- Close to police and fire stations – Deters criminal activity and reduces emergency response times.

Exterior:

- More than one access road and proximity to police and emergency services.
- A high perimeter wall or fence (6-8 feet).
- A clear view of approaches.
- A garage or off-street parking.
- Good lighting.
- Cut shrubs to reduce hiding places for prowlers.
- Do not put your name on the outside of your residence or mailbox.
- Install beware of dog or security/alarm service warning signs

Entrances and exits:

- Solid doors with deadbolt locks and one-way peep holes in door.
- Bars and locks on skylights.
- Metal grating on glass doors and ground floor windows, with interior release mechanisms that are not reachable from outside.

Interior:

- Alarm and intercom systems.
- Fire extinguishers.
- Medical and first aid equipment.

When The House Is Empty:

- Leave the house looking lived-in.
- Stop deliveries of mail and papers, have a neighbor pick them up.
- Don't leave notes on doors.
- Don't hide keys outside the house.
- Use a timer to turn lights on and off at varying times and locations.
- Leave a radio on.
- Hide valuables.
- Notify the police or trusted neighbor of your absence.
- Ask a trusted friend/neighbor to periodically check residence.

When You Are At Home:

- Keep tight control of house keys. Change locks if keys are lost or stolen and when moving into a previously occupied residence.
- Lock all entrances at night, including the garage. Keep the house locked, even if you are at home.
- Destroy all envelopes or other items that show your name, rank, or other personal information.
- Develop friendly relations with your neighbors. Do not draw attention to yourself; be considerate of neighbors.
- Avoid frequent exposure on balconies and near windows.
- Be alert to utility crews and others requesting access to your home. Call the utility company to confirm identities. Confirm identities through a peephole before allowing entry.
- Be cautious about salesmen, opinion poll takers, and strangers. Write down license numbers of suspicious vehicles; note descriptions of occupants.
- Be suspicious about questions from strangers about your family members.
- Report suspicious activity to police.

